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**CIVIL WAR LETTERS AND PAPERS OF JOHN W. MACY,
OF RANDOLPH COUNTY, INDIANA
SERGEANT, COMPANY A, 84TH INDIANA INFANTRY**

[The provenance of these papers is not known]

[Copied in the 1960s for the collection of the Allen County Public Library
under the direction of Fred J. Reynolds]

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MISS
259a

Will whom it may Concern.

Extract from Army Regulations, edition 1861.

Par. 190. Furloughs will be granted only by the commanding officer of the post, or the commanding officer of the regiment actually quartered with it. Furloughs may be prohibited at the discretion of the officer in command.
Par. 191. Soldiers on furlough shall not take with them their arms or accoutrements.

The bearer hereof, John W. Macy,
First Sergt of Captain William Purris (A) Company of the 4th
Regiment of Indiana Volunteer Infantry
aged 19 years, 5 feet 10 inches high, light complexion,
eyes, light hair, and by profession a Wagon-maker; born in the
of Indiana, and enlisted at Hamland Randolph in
the State of Indiana on the 2nd day of January
eighteen hundred and Sixty-two, to serve for the period of three years is hereby
permitted to go to Hamland, in the County of Randolph,
State of Indiana, he having received a **FURLOUGH** from the
20th day of November to the 20th day of December,
at which period he will rejoin the Hospital No 12 Nashville Tenn
~~or wherever it then may be,~~ OR BE CONSIDERED A DESERTER.

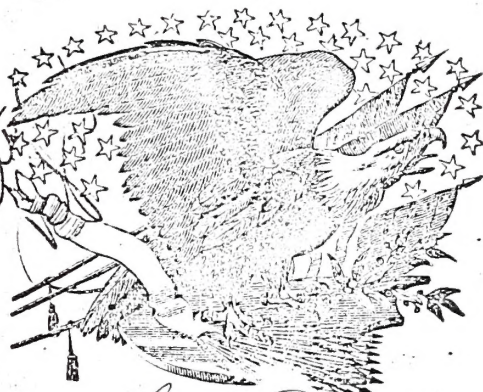
Subsistence has been furnished to said John W. Macy, to the 20th
day of November, and pay to the _____ day of _____,
both inclusive.

Given under my hand, at Nashville Tenn, this _____ day
of November, 1863.

J. M. Lawton
Surgeon
Commanding the Reg't
In charge

whom it may

Concern



*Sub in (100)
Pay 2 40/100
J. J. Stevens
Paymaster*

Know ye, That John W. Macey a
Private of Captain William Barnes,
Company, ("A"), 84th Regiment of Indiana
VOLUNTEERS who was enrolled on the Second day of August
one thousand eight hundred and Sixty Two to serve Three years or
during the war; is hereby **Discharged** from the service of the United States,
this Fourteenth day of June, 1865, at Camp
Harker Tenn by reason of instructions from Wm. Sept
(No objection to his being re-enlisted is known to exist.) dated May 29th 1865

Said John W. Macey was born in Henry County
in the State of Indiana, is 19 years of age.
5 feet 10 inches high, Light complexion, Blue eyes.
Light hair, and by occupation, when enrolled, a Wagonmaker
Given at Camp Harker Tenn this Fourteenth day of
June 1865.

* This sentence will be erased should there be anything in the conduct or physical condition of the soldier rendering him unfit for the Army

[A. G. O. No. 99]

John T. Morris
Capt 20th Ind Battery
and Commanding the Reg't.

Henry T. Semans
Jes. Ch. Comdg. Co. A.
84th Regt Ind, vols, Inf't

Strawberry Plains East Tennessee

March 19th 1865

Miss E. J. Macy

Dear Sister- This is emphatically a hot day and very dry. There is scarcely any air stirring and the sun comes out like July. - I am sick - have a violent attack of that most disagreeable ^{of 11.17} fevers - Spring fevers - Am too lazy to breathe if I could live without. So I took my pen and ink and started for the woods. Thinking I could keep my eyes open in the shade. But I find it very hard work think if I would do myself justice I should lay down on those leaves and sleep the day out. But then if some confounded Gizzard or ground puppy should crawl down my back it would scare me out of my boots sure. And ~~and~~ such a thing would not at all be strange for I see several of the little cubs running around among the Rocks seeking whom they may ~~serve~~ ^{kill}. Well Sister I have changed Post offices considerable since I last wrote - we are now laying in Temporary camp here about 17 miles East of Knoxville. on the R.R. leading from Knoxville to Bristol ~~and~~ Virginia, connecting there with the Richmond and Lynchburgh R.R. I think it is the intention to put this Road through (as the Road is now ^{being} ~~working~~) as soon as possible

and form a junction with Sheridan at Lynchburg if this movement is successful it will compell Lee to evacuate Richmond and fight us on fair ground or stay in Richmond and starve. I think if Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, and Thomas all get a stroke at Lee they will surely wipe him out. Lee's army once destroyed the Confederacy ~~to fall~~. I think the plans are all laid and that we have the men to execute them ~~successfully~~ successfully, which will finally and forever destroy their Genies. We of the 84th was rather of the opinion that our fighting was done, after the Battles of Franklin & Nashville But it seems that we are to help take Richmond - all right the old 4th Corps never had a whipping yet, and if they undertake to take Richmond she will have to fall. The old 84th is in good fighting trim But not as some used to say "spoiling for a fight". Whenever I hear a man say that, I am certain that he is either a Liar or has never smelled powder burned in Battle. You never hear an old soldier saying he had rather "fight than eat". Any man who has ever engaged in Battle, has seen the horrors, and the heart sickening scene there is not anxious to see the thing repeated although when it becomes necessary will stand and fight - as long as any one. I don't know how long we will stay here probably a day or two at furthest.

as it is the intention to move us up as fast
as they can complete the Road Trains are coming
in all the time loaded with soldiers. I heard today
that the 144th was coming up here. I wish they would
wouldn't we have a gay old time? Do you know
whether or not Dave Gullen is in that Regt?

I saw across Matt Reefe the Shoemaker yesterday
he belongs to the 9th Ind has been with us ever
since we were at Pulaski last fall and I
never happened to notice him.

Well Gize I expect by the
time this ~~get~~ comes to hand you will be in the City
of Economy. I hope you will like the place. I saw
a letter the other day from Miss Poe stating that you
intended to move soon. I had some way got the idea
that Will was going to move there but that Father was
going to stay at the old place. I can't hardly help feeling
sorry that you have to move, but hope it will be for
the best, I hope you will get to go to school for you
must go if there is a good one there. I noticed in
the "Journal" that Henry B. Macy of the 9th Ind Cavalry
was buried. I expect I saw him, as he was wounded
near Franklin, the wounded were all carried back pass
us as the Rebs Ran just before we got there. to help them

is he one of Geo's Maey's Brother? When you get moved
I want you to let me know how you like your new
neighbors and friends especially the shemales. Also let
me know where Will Hogland lives. I understand he
has moved down about Bunavista.

I have not had a line from Frank yet. I fear
something more than sickness is the matter with
him. I have written him a dozen letters and he
hasn't answered any of them. He says you do not sit
near to that - I have the wrong address.

Since writing the above we have had quite a stag dance
that is about all the fun we have seen the boys are

still dancing out after I don't very much visiting them
at "Round" or "Pramade's" as that is all the go out
side. I am in good health but not as fat as when
at home. I guess you will weigh more than I will
as I only go 130. But I can dance as long and
jump as far as any of them. Jerry Painter said to me
you were ^{the} ~~was~~ at home says you are the fittest
girl he ever saw. Write often to me and send my regards
getting along so well and all the rest of them
hoping that you will not forget your little Bro
as you call me. I remain as ever your

Wm. Lytle May

Disaffected at B. H.

Edward Franklin Benson

30th / 864
Edge Springs Tenn April
Miss E. J. Macy

Dear Sister Yours

No 23rd has just come to hand, and I hasten
to answer, although it hasn't been
many days since I wrote you. I was
glad to hear from you as I ever am
and will I think while ^{we are} separated by the
cruel decree of War. I am in excellent
health and getting along finely. The ~~last~~
splendid weather the only objection is rather
an overplus of heat in the day, and the
reverse at night. In this Southern coun-
try the Sun will almost burn ^{you} up then
at night unless he's blessed with a goodly
quantity of Blankets! Will find himself
shivering as with the ague. Notwithstan-
ding, this fact this is one of the healthiest
country we have ever been in. We have
had scarcely any sickness since com-
ing here. All the boys look as healthy
as any one could desire. I had just

as I can serve my time out in East Sum. There is more confidence placed in our officers
as any where I know of. From present, than ever before. This is one of the musters -
indications we will not remain idle entire virtue in an army. Let an army
march longer. All Officers, Sergeants, & privates, doubt the abilities or Patriotism of their
Baggage Co. Boats, &c. &c. as I have seen. Well Ad. just as I got in a good
to the Prov. Station, Ammunition, clothing, and I forth, are fast accumulating
all indicating, ^{Speedy} action. And I think does for me to make a report, which I have
done, often about 2 hours work, after which
is a feeling of confidence, and self
advance in this army now that I
never can equalled. I have never
heard one express a doubt or even
fear that we will not be successful.
ful, in the coming campaign. With
such a vast army of conflicting heresies
The country has all to hope and expect
set and nothing to fear. This Hellish
Rebellion is breathing its last. God in
his justice will not permit such
a vile scourge to pollute the face
of Free earth much longer. Forbear -
you have long since ceased to a victim,
justice can not always sleep!

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^{to make these things at least}
You said something about going to
School. Now this is just what I would
like for you to do, and not only go
but use every energy to educate your-
self I know you have the natural tal-
ent to to make an excellent scholar
if you would only determine to accom-
plish over every obstacle. Oh would
not I improve the chances that have
been offered me but which in my
foolishness I rejected. If I only had
my life to live over again, I can see
now where I made fatal blunders often
it is too late to mend them. But I want
you to profit by my blindness
I know you will not doubt my
sincerity in ^{wishing} your happiness and
success ~~in~~ in life. And I only advise you
for your own future good which
unless you profit by it, ^{you} will regret
when it is too late to mend matters
Now is the time if you want to get a
start that will make you useful
in after life and prepare you for
a life ~~please~~ ^{please} not know to the common

Near Atlanta Ga August 2nd

Miss Abby Macy

Dear Sister - I received yours of 24th also a package containing Shirts Kerchiefs Soap & including that long letter you said you would write. They came to hand just as we were ordered to pack up our traps and leave. Many thanks for the Shirts & I don't know how they will fit yet not having had an opportunity to wash yet in salt water as Din advised me. Of course I'll follow instructions to the letter. My handkerchieves enable me to put on a good deal of style. All needed to complete my toilet is a white collar & Boot blacking to black my Government Exp^d. As I told you of our having orders to move last night, I had ^{at} first best tell you where we moved to. We were on the extreme left of the whole army & moved about 2 miles to the right to relieve a portion of the 23rd Corps which is ^{going} still farther to the right. I think Sherman is trying to throw the right wing of the army around to cut the Atlanta & Macon R.R.

[illegible][illegible]

I don't fear but what - you can learn all that is needed on your part is a determination to leave resolve in your own mind that you are going learn, then put your resolution in practice and no matter how hard the task how difficult or complicated the sentence or problem may be you will succeed, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, everything in turn you undertake will have to submit to your will & industry and you can finally have the gratification of seeing yourself master of them all, & knowing it as a reward by your industry & perseverance. Not to men gift of nature, Don't imagine that merely going to College will make you a scholar. You know there are too many of that kind of scholars in our country already. Knowledge is the test of scholarship and unless you bring a good share of that, you might go to college & you would not have the least claim to it. Tell me now if it discourages you because you are not farther advanced in the study only work the harder to make up for lost time. And don't forget that making a single failure is no cause for despondency try again, but don't say I can't do long as there is a possibility of your being able to say I can. You should be very careful in selecting your companions. And in your behavior never lose the respect of your Teachers. The associations of school are the most potent to recall & influence persons here. Who is there that has been blessed with the privilege of going to school can look back upon those days when all gathered at the school house at the long hours of study when it seemed almost intolerable to be chopped up so long in that old dingy room, poring over old books which seemed senseless then, now as presentation we almost trembled fearing the displeasure of the Teacher for some neglected or half-gotten lesson. How supremely happy were we would say a few words of commendation about our lessons conduct &c. Now a few strokes of the detailed pen & yet would overwhelm with shame & remorse. But the worst recollection, how every nerve thrilled with excitement & pleasure. You can see the Ball, not those detested grammar, but a good old covered Ball, equal good for shooting a fellow in the middle or to knock with the paddle. Now at night we all felt like so many cold turkeys loose as we went shuffling & knocking towards our homes. Oh! little little did we know the value of that little word home then. All these things come crowding on my memory & feel like I'd like to tell a school boy once more, but to the point. Taylor says the first time sets in the first of September at 7 o'clock, if you go home you will have to be getting ready soon, that's soon as you get this, and let me know certainly whether you will go or not. And tell you now you mustn't fail. This is the last sheet of paper last postage stamp and last envelope & yours. If you please I would send you a package of paper, envelopes, and a box of Susquehanna lead, postage stamps for a summer's school & to be sure I'll send you a book. I think I'm getting to be very industrious.

Yours truly
J. M. Smith

Camp 5th Ind Vol 2
Near Nashville Tenn ^{May 2nd}

Chief E. J. Macy

Thought I would send you
a few lines one of the boys is going home to
day on furlough. We are still laying in
camp at this place and seeing very good
times with the exception that every body's
"drop-ped" and have nothing to make fun
from. Ras & Walter Shaw were over here
yesterday and we had a very good time
and some tell gossing on the past
present & future. Ras had considerable
to say about you pretty much as though
you were great cronies how is this then
you forgot that Ras & Walter at the party
that will a couple of winters ago and Ras
Shaw of the 2nd Ind Battery are one and
the same persons. Why you wouldn't want
to speak to the child at that time—
May be you were ashamed of Bob. Macy
But great changes will come over the shadow
of our dreams and we can't help it
and I suppose to all right for it's
natural

I think Walter is going to be a very gay
young man. When he grows up a little
more. What's the matter with H. P. I haven't
had a line from him for a long time
I hope I haven't offended him. I know
I haven't aimed too, for I think he is
one of the best of Brothers.
Well like I can't think of anything of interest
to write and Dudley is hurrying me out
of all reason. I wrote to — the other day
I can't see what right you have to swap
your little White Headed Bro. for any
body's cousin. Please explain. How
is it? There is a rumor in camp that we
go to Texas in a few days. Truly for Texas
I should like to go too. We have
Grand Review tomorrow by Gen. Thomas
won't you come out and see the old
Regged and 4th Corps on a Review
so please bring your female
friends. Love to all the friends

J. J. M. M.
or say this man

Wm's near Nashville Tenn Feb 20th 63
Of St. Mary

Dear Sister — I received your letter while at Callettsburg and I believe I wrote an answer, But as I generally have to wait two or three times before you answer. We left Callettsburg the night I wrote, you I am sorry to have to tell you I didn't get that darky out of jail. I worked until after midnight, when I broke my anger and not being able to find another I had to give it up. We got on board the Boston that morning and started down the River for Cincinnati there sometime in the night, We found several Translanders, I saw Geo. Haddington and John Elwood and got to talk with them some. I saw Old Susie A. but didn't get to speak to her. At dark we started on down the River and arrived at Louisville the next morning. We laid there until evening when we ^{again} started down the River, I could see from here. Kelley Keeney's old place of Residence, it was inside of them walls that he finished his education and commenced a brilliant career. We passed over the falls just before night it was a beautiful sight although quite dangerous, the Captain of the Boat paid a

Paid fifty dollars for piloting us
which was done inside of five minutes.
Even all night that night passed over
then next morning which was the last An-
diana Town I saw, that was a beautiful day
and I staid on deck all day. The old Boston
fairly flew down the River. Steamboat
riding is the nicest in the world, in nice
weather, we arrived at the Mouth of the
Cumberland in the evening, and started
up for Nashville at 10 P.M. Nashville is
about 240 miles from the mouth
We passed the ~~most~~ ^{most} forgotten Ft. M
Donelson about ten ^{the} next day. The deck was
crowded every fellow trying to get a fair
view of the Battle Ground. The Band struck
up Yankee Doodle and such yelling was
never heard on board. The Boston, the fortifica-
tions were not so extensive as I supposed
them to be, but the graves clearly proved it
to be the desperate Battle Ground. It has been
represented to be I would have given a
month's wages to get to walk over the field
out that was impossible. We passed several
Railroad Bridges which Chief Hoyer had
burned in his retreat from Donelson.
At night we hauled in to the shore

It was too dark to run, We started out
by the next morning, passed the Residence
of Tom Bell, a famous Secessionist, Arrived
at Nashville at 10 o'clock. Here we landed
after being on the River 5 days and travelling
over 1750 miles, You ought to see Nashville
as it now is, The wharf is a perfect mass of Men
(darkies) mules brackers waggon Hay Bales and
every conceivable kind of army stores, The men
fighting & swearing & whipping the darkies grinning
The mules kicking and braying, It is perfect
confusion and disorder itself and man would
be lucky indeed to pass through without
a broken head or bruised shins, I had no
of the amount of Provision it takes to feed
70 or 80,000 men until I came here we
marched through town to the tune of
Dixie, I thought I had seen a few niggers
in my life but after passing through
Nashville I am satisfied they must all be
here there was not a house but you could
see from 4 to 70 curly heads peeping out of the
windows, or looking from the corner of the
smoke house, About 12 mile from town there is a
regular encampment of darkies. They work on the
Fortifications about the city and it is said to
be the intention of Gen. Rosecrans to give them

spens in case the city should be attacked.
We have received sever letters from Father
lately but haven't had time to answer.
He wanted me to see Burris about buying his
land. Burris has just bought Caywood and
doesn't think he can make ^{the} payments especially
the money down. If I was in his place I shouldn't
be in a hurry about selling that and it may
be Burris would buy it in the spring. I received
a letter from Saml McQuis at Cincinnati I should
like to answer it but haven't time now.
We are mostly in good health with the excep-
tions of the camp disease which is sure to follow.
a change of Water. it is the most beaut-
iful country I ever saw. I believe I would sell
my interest in the army for the farm we are
camped on. We are looking every day for orders
to move out to Franklin or Murfreesboro.
Three Regiments moved out this morning.
I have written all I know that is worth writ-
ting. So I shall close. Let me know if you hear
anything Ben Give my best respects to all the folks.
Write soon and oblige your Affectionate Brother
C. J. A. Macy J. M. Macy
Frank and Nashville
Ind Tenn
Direct Nashville Tennessee. 8th ^{Gen} Cap Birriss

